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IV. NOTES ON COLONIES AND COLONIAL GOVERNMENT.

Hawaii.—An interesting feature of political conditions in all the new dependencies is seen in the nature of the issues presented by the various political parties. One of the issues which may be found in all the new party platforms is the demand for greater independence. While in Hawaii this demand has been fairly met by the organic act creating the present territorial government, recently a new form of the question has arisen in the shape of a claim for local and municipal home rule. The local organization of Hawaii is as yet undeveloped, being in the elementary stage established by the old monarchy, and the demand for local institutions has become so strong that a new Home Rule Republican party has been formed in some of the legislative districts. The following are the principal features of its platform:

The establishment of counties in the territory and provision for their separate government.

The enactment of a general municipal program under which the cities and towns of the territory may be incorporated.

The protection and advancement of the interests of the industrial classes of the territory.

The regulation of the sources of revenue, including the adjustment of charges on all public utilities operated by the government, so that their operation shall yield the yearly pro rata of revenue required to meet the indebtedness incurred in their construction and maintenance, and no more.

A loan act providing for a bond issue, as permitted by the organic act of the territory, the proceeds to be expended solely for productive works.

The apportionment of senators for the two and four-year terms, in accordance with the organic act creating the territory.

Cuba.—Arrangements have been completed for the evacuation of Cuba by the American forces under General Wood. On May 20th Governor Wood, his staff and the greater number of American troops will embark for home. A small number will be left behind to man the coast defences, until the new government shall have designated Cubans to replace them. While little attention has been attracted by the preparations up to the present time, the event is one which will doubtless receive attention throughout the world; European nations, particularly, have been somewhat slow to acknowledge the disinterested motives of American interference in Cuban affairs, and it is, therefore, a matter for congratulation that the United States has

been able to prove beyond the possibility of a doubt the nature of its original intentions. The American authorities have arranged with President Palma for the immediate appointment of a large number of Cubans in the more important administrative positions, so as to avoid the effects of a sudden and complete change in the central executive.

In reviewing the work of the American administration of Cuban affairs, there is perhaps no one activity of the American authorities which will be so gratefully remembered by the Cuban people as the sanitary reforms recently introduced. Attention has been called in a former number of the ANNALS to one aspect of this work; it may now be of interest to summarize briefly the achievements of the American officials in Havana, the hotbed of unsanitary conditions, as reported to the Insular Division of the War Department.

While there has been a steady and general improvement in the sanitary condition of Havana, the great work accomplished this year by the Sanitary Department has been the exclusion of yellow fever from the city; it is believed that this has been due to measures, for the first time adopted and carried out in Cuba, and based upon certain scientific facts established by the Army Board.

To make clear the claim that Havana has been purged from yellow fever during the past year by the destruction of infected mosquitoes, the history of the city with regard to yellow fever during the past hundred years, should be considered. During that period yellow fever has always been epidemic in Havana, up to 1901. Sanitary measures, which had reduced the excessive death rate of Havana to that of healthy cities of civilized countries, had had little or no effect upon yellow fever. General disinfection, as carried out for other infectious and contagious diseases, had been most extensively and faithfully tried, but yellow fever only disappeared upon the introduction of a system whose object was the destruction of infected mosquitoes, based upon the theory that the *Stegomyia* mosquito is the *only* means of transmitting yellow fever. From the 28th of September, 1901, to February 15, 1902, there has not been a single case of yellow fever in Havana, a condition of affairs so unusual that all question of chance can be dropped from consideration. During the past forty-five years, with scarcely an exception, some deaths have occurred from yellow fever in every month of the year, the maximum—2,058 deaths—occurred in 1857; the minimum—51 deaths—occurred in 1866; an average of 751.44. For the year 1901, in which the new system was adopted, there occurred only 18 deaths, and 12 of these deaths occurred before the new system was put into effect. Definite data still in existence warrant the belief that it has been epidemic in Havana since the English occupation in 1762.

The general sanitary methods adopted by the American administration upon its occupation in January, 1899, had a rapid effect in reducing the general mortality. In 1898, the last year of Spanish occupation, Havana had 21,252 deaths; in 1899, the first year of American occupation, 8,153 deaths; the next year, 1900, 6,102 deaths and 1901, 5,720 deaths, which would be a small number of deaths for cities of similar size in any civilized country. This is a much smaller number of deaths than had ever occurred for a year in Havana before. For the past thirty-one years the maximum death rate occurred in 1898, when it was 91.03 per 1,000; the minimum in 1885, 29.30; average, 41.55. This year it is 22.11.

The data above given would indicate that the general hygienic conditions of Havana at the end of 1899 were better, by far, than they had ever been before, but the facts as to yellow fever were very different.

In 1898, on account of the Spanish war, there was very little immigration to the city and therefore there were few non-immunes to contract yellow fever. During this year there were only 136 deaths from the disease.

The next year, 1899, there was little or no immigration during the first six months, consequently few non-immunes, and there were only five deaths. During the last six months of that year over 12,000 immigrants came, and 98 deaths from yellow fever occurred. The winter epidemic for 1899 was unusually severe. The next year, 1900, there were 310 deaths from yellow fever. This demonstrates that the general sanitary measures had had a marked effect upon the general death rate, but very little upon the death rate for yellow fever. Neither labor nor expense was spared. The floors and walls of the room occupied by the patient were washed down with a solution of bichloride, applied with a force pump, then the room was carefully sealed and filled with formaline gas. All the fabrics were taken to the disinfecting plant and passed through a steam sterilizer. Every case was carefully isolated, and the quarantine enforced by an employee of the sanitary department, who was on guard at the room quarantined. Three men in eight-hour shifts were assigned as guards in each case.

By the end of 1900 the authorities were convinced that general sanitary methods could not in a short time eradicate yellow fever from Havana. In the smaller cities and military camps entire success had resulted from the deportation of the non-immune population, together with general sanitary methods; but in a city the size of Havana, with a non-immune population of between 30,000 and 40,000, such a measure was entirely impracticable.

At the beginning of 1901 the prospects, as far as yellow fever in Havana was concerned, were particularly unfavorable. There was a large non-immune population—probably larger than it has ever been before. The city was thoroughly infected, cases having occurred in all parts. During the preceeding year there had been 1,244 cases, and 210 deaths, and all classes of non-immunes had suffered severely. On the staff of the military governor, the chief commissary, the chief quartermaster and one of the aides had died. January commenced with an unusually large number of deaths from this disease, the records showing 24 cases and 7 deaths. February was equally severe, 8 cases and 5 deaths occurring during that month.

The military governor, being determined that no precautions should be omitted directed that in addition to former measures, work be started on the suppression of transmission by the mosquito. This work went into effect about the first of March, with the result that during the whole year there occurred only 18 deaths from yellow fever.

Estimating the yellow fever year as commencing April 1, it is shown that for the past 11 years the maximum, 1,385 deaths, occurred in 1896-97; the minimum, 122 deaths, in 1899-1900; average, 467. For the year 1901-2, up to February 15, there were five deaths. This difference is too marked to be any matter of chance. That the yellow fever year of 1901-2 had only one twenty-fifth the number of deaths that had occurred in the minimum year of the preceding 11 years, must be due to some cause that did not act during those years. Still more marked is the fact that since September 28, 1901, no cases at all have occurred, particularly when it is considered that October and November rank among the worst months for yellow fever.

Not only was this result obtained with the city full of non-immunes, but there were half a dozen infected towns in railroad communication with Havana. Constant intercourse was kept up and no interference with commerce occurred. Goods of all kinds were allowed to come into the city freely. No restriction was put upon bringing in clothing, bedding, and so on, from those infected points. The only infected material from the towns looked after was the sick man, who was carefully sought out and screened from mosquitoes.

The number of other infectious and contagious diseases has been small during the year. There has been very little diphtheria and typhoid fever, and the tuberculosis rate is about that of most cities of civilized countries. A rapid decrease has taken place since American occupation. A marked decrease in malaria has also occurred since the mosquito work began. It is also interesting to note the small birth

rate and the large death rate of the negro population as compared with the white. In Havana the negro is not only not so well suited to his environment as the white man, but would disappear in a few years unless recruited from without.

The army took charge of the Health Department of Havana when deaths were occurring at the rate of 21,252 per year. It relinquishes authority with deaths occurring at the rate of 5,720 per year. It took charge with an annual small-pox epidemic occurring regularly, whereas at the present time not a single case has occurred in the city for over 18 months. It took charge with yellow fever epidemic for two centuries, the relentless foe of every foreigner who came within Havana's borders, a foe from which there was no escape, and from whose attack it was well known that every fourth man must die. It found Havana feared as a thing unclean by all her neighbors of the United States, and quarantined to the untold financial loss of both Havana and the United States. The army has stamped out this disease in its greatest stronghold, and has demonstrated a system by which yellow fever can certainly be controlled without interference to commerce.